

## **Town of Boscawen**

### **Board of Selectmen**

#### Final Minutes

Wednesday, September 19, 2018 at 5:00pm

In attendance: Mark Varney via phone, Roger Sanborn, Edward Cherian, Katie Phelps, Kevin Wyman, Ray Fisher, Dean Hollins, Alan Hardy, Linda Chandonnet, Mark Stetson, Vernon John, Tim Kenney, Dave Collins, Roy Fanjoy, Chief Richard Oberman.

Selectman Edward Cherian opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance at 5:00pm and a moment of silence.

Selectman Edward Cherian announced that Mark Varney joined the meeting via conference phone and asked if there was anything that needed to be removed from the Consent Agenda.

**Selectman Roger Sanborn made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Chairman Mark Varney seconded. All in favor.**

#### **Guest speakers:**

Mark Stetson from Avitar Associates came to speak to the Board about the results of the Towns Completed Reevaluation. The reevaluation is completed the cards have been delivered and the Cyclical Revaluation Manual is part of that process is here as well. This manual explains the updated evaluation. If resident has a question on how their evaluation has changed they will be able to find it in this manual. There is an electronic version of the manual that many Towns will put on their websites so residents can access it. The data is not here yet due to a server problem technical support needs to be here for the download and should be here tomorrow. The net result of the total Towns evaluation is an appreciation of 17.5% from where we were five years ago. He also stated that the MS-1 has been submitted to the state, the precincts MS-1 has been submitted to the state and the Towns MS-1 requires signatures from the Selectmen and then it will be submitted. This year we had 90 informal hearings after the property value increase and the majority of the residents were satisfied with Avitar's assessment. All new properties built in the next 5 years will be assessed by the 2018 model. Selectman Ed Cherian and Selectman Roger Sanborn signed the 2018 MS-1.

#### **New Business:**

Accountant Katie Phelps received the \$602.00 check from the State of NH from the VFA Grant.

**Selectman Roger Sanborn made a motion to accept the \$602.00 check. Chairman Mark Varney seconded. All in favor.**

Katie presented a rebate check from the Waste Water Treatment Plant for over payment in 2016 for the amount of \$56,305.19. They have lowered the estimate for this coming year. The money will be deposited back into the sewer fund. In 2018 the Town made four payments of \$46,816 and estimated billing for 2019 is four payments of \$32,740.

Fire Chief Ray Fisher mentioned that the Chicken BBQ will be Saturday October 6<sup>th</sup> and asked that we advertise for it. Ray will give it to Katie and she will put it on Facebook and the Town Website.

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Public Works Director Dean Hollins has talked to Commissioner Bruce Crawford the other day about borrowing the Precincts air compressor to raise manhole covers in preparation for paving. Bruce mentioned that they were looking to sell it for \$1,000. Dean agrees that it is worth the \$1,000 and it would be cheaper than renting one which they have been doing. Dean currently has the money in his budget. Discussion ensued regarding purchasing the Precincts light tower.

**Chairman Mark Varney made motion to approve Dean's request to purchase the air compressor. Selectman Roger Sanborn seconds. All in favor.**

*Three residents came for the informational meeting.*

Roy Fanjoy and Dave Collins from Penacook Rescue Squad were invited to come to talk about the increase need of support from the Town of Boscawen.

Dave explained that the volunteers have dwindled and they have needed to hire more staff members where volunteers would have covered unscheduled shifts in the past. Over the last several years they have gotten to the point where the volunteers are requesting to be paid per diem. The per diem staff was working Monday through Friday 7am-5pm and the volunteers were receiving a small stipend. The major cost change is in personnel, to insure that they have enough staff to get the trucks out when a call comes in. Over the past eight years PRS has been utilized as a career transition for many volunteers. They would start out volunteering and then move on to different careers in the medical field. There are other full time services that are running per diems as well and PRS needs to offer a competitive wage in order to keep staffed. In addition to the personnel increase Dave explained that they have two ambulance's that are in need of replacement. One is 8 years old and the other is 6 years old and capital reserves have dwindled. Penacook Rescue has been depleting their capital reserve account for the last several years. One of the Selectboards main concern is that last year Penacook Rescue estimated that there would be an increase from \$90,000.00 in 2018 to \$120,000.00 in 2019. Now going into 2019 the cost has added up to \$250,000.00. Selectmen Edward Cherian asked about PRS rebuilding their capital reserves. PRS is requesting \$400,000.00 split between roughly three Towns. The last time the town of Salisbury contributed to PRS was in 2013. Dave said that the \$100,000.00 is requested for the unknown expense not for their capital reserve. PRS can show what the cost will be for personnel however cannot show revenue from billable calls. In addition reimbursement can take anywhere from 30 to 120 days to come in. Also Penacook Rescue has it averaged out with three towns paying and two towns as amounts and the concern is why Boscawen would have to pay more if that third town is not going to pay. The funding that Penacook Rescue has asked for over the last several years was not enough to build up a reserve and they are currently consuming all their trust accounts for payroll and operating expense. Dave explained that PRS has been operating at a deficit for the past several years. Selectman Edward Cherian requested that the trustees pull that data for our next meeting with PRS. Concord Hospital supplies an estimated 75% of the medical supplies and medication needed. Billing revenue is an issue as well. The call volume has increased but the rates that insurance companies pay have decreased and many patients are not able to pay for services. If the insurance company deems it not medically necessary and the patient is released from the hospital, they are not paying for the service. The Board stated that as

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budget season is coming they will want to have PRS come back in to speak with the Board and the Budget Committee. Just prior to 6:00pm Chief Richard Oberman arrived at the meeting after attending a PRS call. Resident of Boscawen Vernon John questioned, if PRS services Merrimack County Nursing Home and Jail, or if they have their own private contract for transport services. Chief Oberman answered that Merrimack County does have a private contract for transport for non-emergent medical cases. The staff is trained that if there is a true emergency to call 911. PRS does bill for all 911 calls, the current rates for Medicare, delta and for secondary insurances. Billing services collects about 50%-60% in billing on those calls. The trustees are working on an estimated revenue plan as the PRS fiscal year is March 31<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>. The PRS has attempted to use contracts in the past to keep staff from using the squad as a training facility, but unfortunately it costs too much money to enforce. PRS has three Capital Reserve accounts. Ambulance, capital equipment and building. The plan going forward is for the Board to send a letter with any additional questions. How much are in the three reserve accounts, what is the operating deficit and what are they using the capital reserves for? Should there be two warrant articles for all three towns. Chairman Varney reminded the Board that the Town has voted not to require an audit of PRS. Selectman Edward Cherian asked Fire Chief Ray Fisher about the dispatch calls that are being billed to the Town of Boscawen. Ray said that he pays \$29,000.00 this year for dispatch and next year there will be an increase to \$30,211. Ray is going to reach out to Compact Chief Gilbert and invite him to speak to the Board about the calls and how the amounts are calculated. Tim Kenney explained that how mutual aid services works both ways.

**At 6:24pm, Selectman Roger Sanborn made a motion to adjourn the public session and go into nonpublic RSA 91 A: 3, II (b). Selectman Edward Cherian seconded. All in favor.**

**Selectman Roger Sanborn made motion to come out of RSA 91 A: 3, II (b) and go into RSA 91-A: 3, II (e). Chairman Mark Varney seconded. All in favor.**

**Selectman Roger Sanborn made motion to come out of RSA 91 A: 3, II (e) and go into nonpublic RSA 91 A: 3, II (c). Chairman Mark Varney seconded. All in favor.**

**Chairman Mark Varney made a motion to adjourn the public meeting at 6:45PM. Selectman Roger Sanborn seconded. All in favor.**

Respectfully submitted by Sarah Gerlack